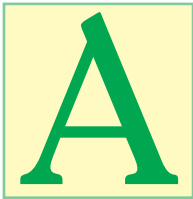


LESSON 11

REFERENCES: GENESIS 13; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 132, 133.

Lot Chooses First

When you play with others, do you share? Do you let them have the first choice? Abram did. He let Lot choose first. Let's imagine what might have happened.



Abram heard loud, angry words in the distance. He looked at his wife, Sarai. "It must be the shepherds," he said sadly. "They're quarreling again."

Abram stepped out into the bright sunshine. "Oh, Master Abram! Master Abram!" several shepherds shouted as they ran toward him.

"What is the matter now?" Abram asked.

"Oh, Master," one shepherd began, "we started to move your flocks of sheep this morning. But the servants of your nephew, Lot, followed us everywhere. Every time we found a good place where the sheep could graze, they threw rocks and sticks at us and the sheep!"

Abram closed his eyes. He wished the problem would just go



Memory Verse

"Let's not have any quarreling between you and me."

GENESIS 13:8, NIV.

The Message

God's people put others first.

away. But he knew it wouldn't. He and Lot were both very rich men now with huge flocks of sheep and goats. Their servants had been arguing over grassy pastures and watering holes for a long time. It was time for the arguing to stop. "I'll take care of it," Abram said to his servants. Soon he was standing in front of Lot's tent.

"Uncle!" exclaimed Lot when he saw Abram. "How nice to see you! What brings you to my tent in the middle of the day?"

"Come walk with me," Abram responded. "I want to show you something."

The two men climbed a small hill. From there they could see the whole valley spread out before them. "Lot, our servants are fighting over pastures and water," said Abram. "The land here can't support both our flocks. Let's not have any quarreling between you and me. It's time for us to separate."

Lot nodded. He knew his uncle was right.

Abram looked across the countryside God had promised him. "You choose where you want to live. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right. If you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

Lot looked across the land. On the left he saw good pastures. It would be a nice place to live. But on the right the pastures offered better grass and the river would supply plenty of water. It would be a great place to live!

"I'll go to the right," said Lot.

"Agreed," said Abram. "I'll go to the left."

Abram walked Lot back to his tent and then continued on home.

"Sarai," he called to his wife, "we need to pack. The quarreling among the shepherds will soon be over. We're moving."



Do and Say

SABBATH

Help your child give the number 1 made in Sabbath School to the person he or she wants to put first this week. (Or cut a large number 1 from paper. Add the name of someone your child wants to put first this week, and help decorate it.) Ask God to help your child put others first.

Review the memory verse using the motions learned in Sabbath School. (See page 62.) Say the memory verse together every day this week.

SUNDAY

Together, read the lesson story from Genesis 13:2, 5–11. Ask: How did Abram put Lot first? How do you think Abram felt to let Lot pick first? How do you think Lot felt when his uncle let him choose first? How can you be like Abram?

Thank God for loving families.

MONDAY

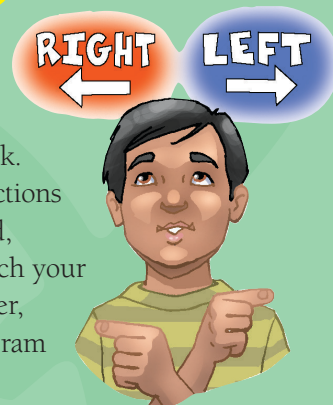
Make a sheep mask out of a paper plate. Cut out eyes, add ears, a mouth, and cotton balls. Let your child hold up the mask as you sing a song about sheep. Thank God for animals.



TUESDAY

Take a walk together. Talk about left and right.

Help your child point to each direction, then decide which way to walk. Give some left/right directions (hold up your right hand, stomp your left foot, touch your right eye, etc.). Remember, Lot went to the right; Abram went to the left.



WEDNESDAY

Help your child plan a secret way to say “I love you” to someone by letting that person choose first. Will it be a game to play? a book to read? By being loving we are being like Abram and Jesus.

THURSDAY

Provide an opportunity to practice sharing. Let your child invite a friend over to play or prepare a special treat to share with someone. Sing a “sharing” song, then thank God you have something to share with others.

FRIDAY

Ask your child to tell the story of Abram and Lot at family worship. Have a treat (of different proportions) your child can share, giving others the first choice. Sing a sharing song. Pray that your child will put others first.